

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
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FEBRUARY 6, 2007

7TH STREET PRODUCE MARKET

On February 1, 2007, KNBC-TV's investigative unit reported poor food handling practices, improper health inspections and inappropriate behavior by operators of food and produce vendors at the 7th Street Produce Market. The TV news report showed images of a man urinating next to produce, rat infestations, and many other unsanitary and unsavory conditions. The news footage also uncovered lax enforcement of health codes by Environmental Health Services staff, some of whom were seen warning produce vendors of the impending TV news investigation.

Although the 7th Street Produce Market has many inherent site problems, such as the absence of loading docks and minimal shared bathrooms, it appears the Department of Public Health has not provided the appropriate level of inspection and enforcement. According to a memo dated February 1, 2007 from the Director of Public Health, following KNBC-TV's initial inquiries last November, investigators from the

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Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____

Department quickly confirmed many of the health safety violations alleged by KNBC-TV to have taken place. The Department's memo also revealed that while the Department has the authority and responsibility to license and inspect individual produce vendors located within a wholesale produce facility, it may have jurisdictional limitations on the licensing and inspection of wholesale produce facilities, themselves.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Health to report back in 15 days on recommendations for increasing the number of produce vendor inspections to be required on an annual basis.

WE, FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Health to report back in 15 days with the following:

- a) Recommendations on any appropriate changes in either State or County regulations and/or codes related to the licensing, inspection and enforcement of wholesale produce facilities; and
- b) Recommendations for improving coordination between cities and the County in permitting and inspecting the condition and operation of wholesale produce facilities.

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